

REMARKS

Claims

By the instant amendment, claims 12, 13, 17, and 29 to 33 have been cancelled, claims 24 to 27 have been amended for greater clarity, and claims 34 to 66 have been added. Claims 19 to 28 and 34 to 66 are pending in the case. No new matter has been entered.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 102

Claims 12, 13, 17, and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zucherman et al. (US 5,836,948). The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 12 and 29 to 33 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fitz (US 5,571,191). The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Claims 12 and 29 to 33 were further rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Reiley (US 6,610,091). The rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 19 to 28 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner accordingly.

Additional Claims

It is submitted that newly added claims 34 to 66 are allowable over the cited art.

Applicants submit that amendment and/or cancellation of claims during prosecution of the instant application is not to be construed as acquiescence to any of the objections/rejections set forth in the instant Office Action or any previous Office Action, and were done solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants submit that claims were not added, amended, or cancelled during prosecution for reasons related to patentability. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed, or similar claims, in subsequent patent applications.

A Fee Transmittal, in respect of the extra claims fees required by the instant amendment, is attached. Please charge any additional fee that may be required, and any deficiency in fees, including any further petition fees, to Deposit Account No. 17-0110.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned agent at 613-533-2342 would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,



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